

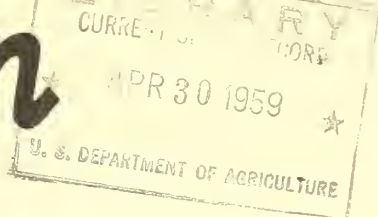
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# Foreign



# CROPS AND MARKETS

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, APRIL 27, 1959

VOLUME 78

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NUMBER 17

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## FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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PORTUGAL IMPORTS MORE  
TOBACCO IN 1958

Portugal's imports of unmanufactured tobacco in 1958 totaled 12.5 million pounds--up about 7 percent from 1957. Imports from the United States, at 6.6 million pounds in both years, represented 57 percent of the total in 1957 and 53 percent in 1958.

Although U.S. leaf continues to be preferred by the 2 manufacturers in Portugal, price increases here are causing the latter to look for lower-priced substitute leaf from such producers as Italy, Canada, Rhodesias-Nyasaland, Greece, and Communist China. Consequently, takings from all of these sources were larger in 1958 than in 1957. Imports from Italy, believed to be mainly Burley, rose to 1.6 million pounds last year from 1.2 million in 1957.

Average prices paid for 1958 imports from principal suppliers, in terms of U.S. equivalents per pound, with 1957 prices shown in parentheses were: United States, 57.6 cents (48.2); Rhodesias-Nyasaland, 31.7 cents (30.6); Italy, 42.6 cents (36.2); Canada, 46.6 cents (40.9); Greece, 23.5 cents (23.5); Angola, 20.0 cents (17.0); and Mozambique, 38.3 cents (32.4).

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: Portugal, imports by country of origin, quantity and average price, 1957 and 1958

Country of origin	1957		1958	
	Quantity	Average price 1/	Quantity	Average price 1/
	1,000 pounds	U.S. cents per pound	1,000 pounds	U.S. cents per pound
United States.....	6,631	48.2	6,647	57.6
Canada.....	139	40.9	265	46.6
Greece.....	1,618	23.5	1,742	23.5
Italy 2/ .....	1,168	36.2	1,598	42.6
Rhodesias-Nyasaland.....	556	30.6	606	31.7
Angola.....	553	17.0	375	20.0
Mozambique.....	183	32.4	256	38.3
Dominican Republic.....	201	35.5	260	27.7
Communist China.....	148	30.0	179	30.3
Algeria.....	273	21.3	295	19.7
Others 3/ .....	146	46.1	244	42.1
Total.....	11,616	39.8	12,467	45.7

1/ Converted at 1 escudo = U.S. 3.5 cents. 2/ Believed to be largely Burley tobacco. 3/ Mainly cigar leaf from Cuba and Brazil.

## SWISS TOBACCO IMPORTS UP IN 1958

Swiss duty-paid imports of unmanufactured tobacco, in 1958 totaled 28.2 million pounds--up 5 percent from 1957. The United States share in the Swiss market was the same in both 1957 and 1958--45 percent--but purchases of U.S. leaf rose to 12.7 last year from 12.0 million pounds in 1957. Major suppliers, other than the United States, were Brazil, Greece, Turkey, Italy, Indonesia, and the Dominican Republic.

Leaf imports for cigarette manufacture increased 5 percent in 1958, with the United States supplying 56 percent of the total. Other major sources of this leaf were Greece, Italy, and Turkey.

## TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: Switzerland, duty-paid imports, 1956-58

Country of origin	1956	1957	1958
	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
United States.....	11,936	11,988	12,661
Italy.....	1,913	1,908	2,044
Greece.....	2,219	2,348	2,383
Turkey.....	2,357	2,390	2,136
Indonesia.....	1,303	1,190	1,287
Brazil.....	4,160	3,856	4,167
Dominican Republic.....	807	766	838
Cuba.....	476	459	467
Rhodesias-Nyasaland.....	192	238	298
India.....	161	158	174
Others.....	1,282	1,591	1,785
Total.....	26,806	26,892	28,240
1/ Excludes waste.			

SWEDEN'S TOBACCO IMPORTS DOWN  
IN 1958; U.S. SHARE RISES

Sweden imported a total of 13.6 million pounds of leaf tobacco in 1958--a drop of 39 percent from 1957. The monopoly's using of imported tobacco, however, was considerably larger than imports and stocks were considerably reduced. It is likely, therefore, that imports in 1959 will be substantially above those for 1958.

While reported leaf imports from the United States fell from 16.5 million pounds in 1957 to 11.0 million last year, the U.S. share of the total was considerably higher in 1958--81 percent--compared with 74 percent. Imports in 1958 from practically all major sources of supply, including the United States, Greece, Turkey, and Rhodesia dropped in 1958. Purchases from Indonesia and Italy increased a little. Yugoslavia, which supplied no tobacco to Sweden in 1957, furnished 662,000 pounds in 1958.



Average prices paid per pound, c.i.f., for leaf from major suppliers in 1958, in terms of U.S. equivalents, were as follows: United States, 86.4 cents; Greece, 69.7; Yugoslavia, 74.5 cents; Italy, 63.0 cents, and Rhodesia, 54.3 cents.

TOBACCO, LEAF: Sweden, imports by country of origin, 1956-58

Country of origin	1956	1957	1958
	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
United States.....	12,498	16,506	11,014
Greece.....	1,349	3,000	631
Turkey.....	919	853	1
Yugoslavia.....	287	---	662
Rhodesia-Nyasaland.....	1,054	650	168
Indonesia.....	434	231	243
Cuba.....	185	181	115
Italy.....	549	661	673
Other.....	712	101	51
Total 1/ .....	17,987	22,183	13,558

1/ Excludes stems.

JAPANESE CIGARETTE  
SALES UP IN 1958

Japanese consumption of major brands of cigarettes (as indicated by monopoly sale) totaled 104.9 billion pieces in 1958--up 5 percent from 1957. Largest gains were noted for "Peace"--a brand containing about 25 percent U.S. leaf, and "Shinsei"--the biggest seller--which contains no U.S. tobacco. Sales of "Peace" rose to 11.3 billion pieces last year from 10.0 billion in 1957, while 47.7 billion "Shinsei" cigarettes were sold in 1958, compared with 45.9 billion the previous year.

Sales of "Hope", a brand containing about 15 percent U.S. tobacco, totaled 565 million pieces in 1958. This brand was not placed on the market until July 1, 1957, so year to year figures are not comparable. "Pearl", which also contains U.S. leaf (about 10 percent), showed a slight gain in sales--from 2,171 million in 1957 to 2,178 million last year. "Hikari", which also contains U.S. leaf, dropped in sales in 1958.

CIGARETTES: Japan Monopoly's sales of major  
brands to retail shops, 1956-58

Brand	1956	1957	1958
	Million pieces	Million pieces	Million pieces
Fuji 1/.....	186	248	240
Peace 1/.....	7,092	9,989	11,321
Hope 1/.....	---	2/ 233	565
Pearl 1/.....	2,680	2,171	2,178
Hikari 1/.....	8,658	6,293	4,784
Tkoi.....	19,873	23,014	22,941
Midori.....	---	3/ 1,334	5,523
Shinsei.....	42,283	45,931	47,723
Golden Bat.....	16,660	10,691	9,658
Total.....	97,432	99,904	104,933

1/ Contains U.S. leaf. 2/ Placed on retail sale July 1, 1957.  
3/ Placed on retail sale August 1, 1957.

Source: Japan Monopoly Corporation.

GREEK CURRANT AND SULTANA  
EXPORTS DECLINE

Exports of 1958-pack Greek currants and sultanas were down 9 and 39 percent, respectively, during September 1958-February 1959 from the corresponding period a year earlier. However, no stocks are expected to be carried over when the season closes at the end of August. Exports are down because of the smaller pack, particularly in the case of sultanas.

Greek dried fig exports, on the other hand, were nearly 20 percent greater in September 1958-February 1959 than for the same period of 1957-58.

FRUIT, DRIED: Greece, volume of exports, September-February  
1957-58 and 1958-59, including percentage relationship

Dried fruit	September-February 1957-58	September-February 1958-59	1958-59 as percent of 1957-58
	Short tons	Short tons	
Currants.....	54,462	49,489	91
Sultanas.....	54,733	33,168	61
Figs.....	13,408	16,000	119



## DOMINION WOOL PRICES HIGHER

Dominion wool prices in March were generally higher than in February, and reports from auction centers indicate further substantial increases in the first week of April. March prices of fine wools were higher for the second consecutive month, while the coarser wools remained firm. The increase in coarse crossbred types occurred earlier. Prices of these types are the highest since March 1958.

WOOL: Clean cost per pound, c.i.f. United Kingdom, based on auction sales in the Dominions and London, specified dates

Quality	1958			1959		
	March	November	December	January	February	March
	U.S. dol.	U.S. dol.	U.S. dol.	U.S. dol.	U.S. Dol.	U.S. dol.
70's.....	1.21	.95	.92	.91	.93	.96
64's.....	1.10	.89	.86	.85	.90	.92
60's.....	1.05	.83	.81	.79	.84	.86
58's.....	.99	.79	.78	.77	.81	.82
56's.....	.89	.77	.77	.77	.77	.77
50's.....	.71	.65	.65	.65	.69	.69
48's.....	.69	.63	.64	.64	.67	.67
46's.....	.66	.62	.63	.63	.63	.65

Source: New Zealand Wool Commission (London Agency).

# ARGENTINA'S BUTTER EXPORTS DECLINING

Argentina's 1958 exports of butter, at 17.4 million pounds, were approximately half of 1957 exports. Shipments to the United Kingdom, the main market, fell sharply to 13.1 million pounds from 26.3 million pounds in 1957. Exports to Peru and Chile, other important markets, were also down substantially.

Cheese exports rose from 5.8 million pounds to 7.0 million pounds. The United States took almost half of total cheese exports. With the exception of Venezuela, takings by all other important outlets were down from 1957.

For the third successive year, casein exports declined in 1958--dropping to 64.8 million pounds from 66.6 million pounds a year earlier. Exports to the United States, however, increased 4 million pounds to 49.1 million pounds. Shipments to Italy dropped from 9.3 million pounds to 3.2 million pounds; those to Japan from 3.5 million pounds to 1.1 million pounds; and those to Brazil from 7.9 million pounds to only 223,000 pounds.

Preliminary information indicates that milk production in 1958 declined about 10 percent from 1957 output.

## SWEDEN REDUCES IMPORT DUTIES ON CATTLE AND MEAT

The Swedish State Agricultural Marketing Board, in Stockholm, has announced import duty reductions, effective April 9, on live cattle and some types of meat. The present shortage in domestic supplies apparently prompted the action.

## DANES PROTEST ITALIAN BAN ON BEEF IMPORTS

Denmark, which sent about 93 million pounds of beef and veal to Italy during 1958, is protesting Italy's decision to bar fresh and chilled beef and veal imports in order to support Italian livestock prices (see Foreign Crops and Markets, April 20, 1959). Denmark is the country primarily affected by the Italian ban. Most other exporters supply live cattle or frozen low-grade meat, neither of which is embargoed.

## SWEDEN USING HEAT PROCESS TO PRESERVE PORK

Swedish slaughterhouses are using a heat-treatment process to improve keeping qualities of pig carcasses. The process appears to be effective in killing some bacteria that cause meat degeneration.

Automatic equipment places the carcasses in a hot-air oven for 15 seconds at 650 degrees C. It then transfers them to a singeing flame for another 4 seconds, and finally washes them in a special solution.

## U.S. MEAT IMPORTS FROM CANADA DROP

U. S. meat imports from Canada during the first quarter of 1959 dropped 28 percent from the same period in 1958 to a little over 22 million pounds.

The decrease, according to Canadian inspection data, was in beef and veal. Imports of these meats during the first quarter of 1959 dropped 76 percent from the first quarter of 1958--from 15,156,000 pounds to 3,640,000 pounds.

Canadian shipments of other types of meat to the United States increased. Pork imports rose 16 percent to about 14 million pounds during the first quarter of 1959 and are expected to continue high the rest of the year. Hogs are now plentiful in Canada, and the Canadian Government has bought pork to support prices at guaranteed levels (see Foreign Crops and Markets, April 13, 1959). The Canadian Agricultural Stabilization Board's stocks of pork cuts exceeded 52.5 million pounds by the end of March 1959.

U. S. imports of beef from all sources are expected to remain level or to rise moderately during 1959. Large shipments from Australia will probably be offset by decreases in imports from Argentina, New Zealand, and Canada.

OUTLOOK FOR 1959 WHEAT CROP  
GOOD IN WESTERN EUROPE

Fall-sown wheat in Western Europe came through the winter in generally good condition, according to latest reports. It now appears that little damage resulted from cold weather in late January and early February, when lack of adequate snowcover caused concern for the crop. The effects of the cold could not be fully appraised until a period of growing weather showed the condition of plants. Few reports of damage have been received.

Winter wheat is normally more than 90 percent of Western Europe's total wheat acreage. Complete acreage figures are not yet available, but it appears that total winter wheat acreage is slightly less than in 1958. However, arrears may have been partly made up by larger spring seedings. If growing conditions continue favorable, Western Europe's total wheat crop could be at the high level of the past 2 years.

The principal producing countries of the area report a promising outlook. In France, winter wheat condition is very good and spring wheat is germinating well. Winter wheat acreage is somewhat smaller than in 1958 but this could be partly offset by increased seeding of spring and alternative types of wheat. Total acreage, however, is expected to be less than the large acreage of the past 2 years.

Wheat acreage is smaller in Italy because of poor weather in southern regions during seeding. Growing conditions have been favorable, however, and trade circles forecast that the production will be good though not up to last season's record level.

The outlook is good for Spain's crop. If conditions remain favorable the outturn may be close to the 1957 record.

Winter wheat acreage in West Germany is slightly larger than in 1958. Official reports say there was little winter kill and that crop condition is good. An unusually mild spring has facilitated spring seeding. Spring wheat acreage is expected to be about 15 percent larger than in 1958.

Winter wheat acreage may be smaller in the United Kingdom because of bad weather last fall. However, favorable conditions for spring seeding are expected to increase spring wheat acreage, and total acreage may not differ much from a year ago. Condition of the winter crop is generally satisfactory.

Wheat acreage is up slightly in Greece despite the government's policy aimed at diverting some wheat acreage to other crops. Condition of the crop was good at latest report.

As the above 6 countries normally account for almost 90 percent of Western Europe's total, the outlook for the whole area is favorable. Little information is available for Eastern Europe. However, in Yugoslavia--one of the leading producers--the outlook is excellent. Acreage is slightly larger than in 1958 and the crop is in good condition.



## EGYPT AUTHORIZES 1959 RICE ACREAGE

Nile water supplies are now sufficient to permit the irrigation of 600,000 feddans (623,000 acres) of rice in 1959, according to an official Egyptian announcement. The acreage probably will be supplemented by 75,000 to 100,000 acres irrigated by deep wells. If more water is available before the planting season ends, the government may authorize the planting of additional acreage.

Thus, rice acreage will probably be from 700,000 to 800,000 acres, compared with 538,000 acres in 1958. Acreage last year was severely cut back because of insufficient water. If yields per acre are normal this year, around 850,000 to 900,000 metric tons of milled rice will be produced. This will permit exports in 1959-60 (November-October) of 300,000 to 400,000 tons.

Due to the small 1958 crop, exports of Egyptian rice were banned in September 1958. However, around 38,000 tons are being exported to Syria and Lebanon--20,000 tons and 18,000 tons, respectively. These exports had already been committed.

## PERU'S GRAIN PROSPECTS IMPROVE

Threats of serious drought in Peru ended in late February. Drought throughout southern and central sections, and in some northern areas, ended with good rains which made water again available for irrigation. A good percentage of the grain crops is now expected to recover.

## ARGENTINA INCREASES GRAIN SHIPMENTS

Argentine grain shipments during July-February 1958-59 increased 678,000 metric tons above those in the corresponding months of 1957-58. Larger shipments of wheat and corn account for the increase.

Wheat exports amounted to 1,595,000 metric tons in the first 8 months of 1958-59, compared with 1,331,000 tons in July-February 1957-58. Brazil, West Germany, and the United Kingdom continue to be the major outlets for Argentine wheat. Because of a good harvest early in 1958, Chile imported no wheat in July-February 1958-59, against 194,000 metric tons a year earlier.

Corn exports during July-February 1958-59 were more than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times as large as a year earlier. The bumper corn crop harvested in the spring of 1958 increased export availabilities. The Netherlands, United Kingdom, Italy, and Japan took significantly larger quantities.

Barley exports in the 8-month period of 1958-59 dropped to 123,000 metric tons from 378,900 tons in the same period of 1957-58. Oats exports were down to 160,000 tons from 326,100 tons. Rye shipments dropped to 59,100 tons from 212,200 a year earlier.

## GRAIN: Argentine exports, July-February 1957-58 and July-February 1958-59

Country of destination	Wheat	Rye	Corn	Oats	Barley	Total
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons
July-February 1957-58:						
United States .....	--	--	25	--	--	25
Brazil .....	391,287	--	--	3,831	252	395,370
Chile .....	194,494	--	75	--	--	194,569
Paraguay .....	39,950	--	--	--	--	39,950
Peru .....	52,315	--	6,000	--	--	58,315
Austria .....	550	2,000	3,405	450	930	7,335
Belgium-Luxembourg ..	53,444	11,741	145,827	20,936	21,651	253,599
Denmark .....	13,372	2,550	2,250	34,056	--	52,228
Finland .....	--	21,515	--	800	--	22,315
France .....	12,300	--	4,085	510	1,490	18,385
Germany, West .....	242,509	55,210	71,705	75,305	245,138	689,867
Italy .....	74,334	51,001	206,445	66,050	48,873	446,703
Netherlands .....	45,338	51,801	140,576	67,398	47,527	352,640
Norway .....	1,000	6,825	--	--	--	7,825
Spain .....	4,800	--	--	--	--	4,800
Sweden .....	300	6,600	100	1,996	--	8,996
Switzerland .....	13,000	2,000	14,355	30,313	2,421	62,089
United Kingdom .....	164,728	953	9,015	21,458	1,030	197,184
Yugoslavia .....	1,000	--	--	2,990	8,295	12,285
Japan .....	--	--	5,707	--	--	5,707
North Africa .....	9,385	--	700	--	--	10,085
South Africa .....	16,660	--	--	--	1,250	17,910
Total .....	1,330,766	212,196	610,270	326,093	378,857	2,858,182
July-February 1958-59:						
United States .....	--	--	4,560	--	--	4,560
Bolivia .....	6,500	--	--	--	--	6,500
Brazil .....	717,977	--	--	7,552	2,000	727,529
Paraguay .....	39,438	--	--	--	--	39,438
Peru .....	80,349	--	--	--	--	80,349
Uruguay .....	--	--	--	--	940	940
Austria .....	10,713	--	9,870	--	--	20,583
Belgium-Luxembourg ..	43,455	4,970	155,774	6,292	1,250	211,741
Czechoslovakia .....	--	--	2,850	1,500	--	4,350
Denmark .....	15,799	2,700	9,513	13,576	--	41,588
France .....	23,821	--	1,144	--	--	24,965
Germany, West .....	224,124	11,598	117,955	54,767	101,407	509,851
Italy .....	13,055	7,709	417,769	13,396	5,112	457,041
Malta .....	--	--	203	--	508	711
Netherlands .....	73,332	13,596	401,744	43,017	10,877	542,566
Norway .....	6,450	--	6,958	--	--	13,408
Poland .....	--	--	3,960	--	--	3,960
Rumania .....	--	7,771	6,200	1,150	--	15,121
Sweden .....	800	8,825	3,650	5,490	--	18,765
Switzerland .....	300	646	13,866	420	950	16,182
United Kingdom .....	316,056	1,330	234,269	12,808	--	564,463
Japan .....	--	--	206,949	--	--	206,949
Lebanon .....	7,875	--	--	--	--	7,875
Maderia Islands .....	6,907	--	--	--	--	6,907
North Africa .....	--	--	1,785	--	--	1,785
South Africa .....	8,168	--	--	--	--	8,168
Total .....	1,595,119	59,145	1,599,019	159,968	123,044	3,536,295



# U. K. PROCESSORS ADOPTING CANNERS' PRACTICES CODE

The Fruit and Vegetable Canners' Association of Great Britain, according to the Fruit Trades Journal, has recently issued a set of standards covering fill, composition, and sizes of fruit and vegetables for acceptance by the U. K. processing industry. The Journal reports that the new code has been adopted by a majority of the leading U. K. canners.

Minimum filled weight standards for selected fruits in popular can sizes are:

Size	Can description			Recommended minimum fruit weight <u>1/</u>	
	Diameter	Height	Capacity	Apricots, peaches pears & pineapple	Fruit salad and fruit cocktail <u>2/</u>
	<u>Inches</u>	<u>Inches</u>	<u>Fl. ounces</u>	<u>Ounces</u>	<u>Ounces</u>
No. 1.....	2-11/16	4	11.1	6-1/4	6
No. 2.....	3- 7/16	4- 1/2	20.4	11-1/2	11
No. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ .....	4- 1/16	4-11/16	29.9	16-3/4	16
No. 10.....	6- 3/16	7	109.2	64	60
<u>1/</u> Drained net weight. <u>2/</u> Average filled weight of contents of at least 12 cans.					

In approving the fill standards, the Canners' Association emphasized a need for periodic inspection. Also adopted were designations Light Syrup, Syrup, Heavy Syrup, and Extra Heavy Syrup for describing density of syrup used in processing.

## UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA ABOLISHES RICE IMPORT CONTROLS

On April 1, the Union of South Africa abolished government control of rice imports. Rice is now imported by private enterprise. Under a free market, the Union's annual rice consumption is expected to exceed 200 million pounds, more than double that of recent years.

Rice imports into the Union in 1958-59 (April-March) were 82 million pounds, in contrast to 68 million in 1957-58 and an average of 37 million in 1951-55. The 45 million pounds from Communist China --- 55 percent of the total --- was the first significant amount imported from that source. The remainder of 1958-59 imports was from Egypt.

Before World War II, rice imports ranged from about 90 to 175 million pounds annually. During the war they dropped sharply, and since November 1951 greatly reduced imports have been controlled by the government's Department of Nutrition.

The larger prewar (1936-40) rice imports, averaging 139 million pounds annually, were almost entirely from Burma, Thailand, and Indochina. Imports after the war (1946-50) averaged only 27 million pounds, mostly from Brazil and Egypt.

Egypt was the Union of South Africa's main source for rice in the period 1951-55. Of the average 37 million pounds imported annually, 11 million were from Egypt, with important additional quantities from Indochina, Ecuador, Burma, Thailand, Argentina, and Uruguay.

Rice imports from the United States have been relatively small. Now that the Union's rice trade has reverted to private trade, the amount that can be imported from the United States will depend largely on price factors and the Union's availability of foreign exchange. Orders are reported to have been placed by Johannesburg firms with U.S. exporters immediately following the April 1 announcement.

The Union began to produce rice in 1943-44. Its record crop of 1957-58 (including Swaziland) was 33 million pounds of rough rice (20 million pounds milled). A decline in production in Natal and the Transvaal is expected to continue. However, output has been gaining in the Swaziland Protectorate. Practically all of that crop is milled in Natal and marketed in the Union. In general, the government discourages the production of rice not only to maintain production of corn for export but because of the much higher water requirements for rice.

RICE (milled): Union of South Africa, consumption, averages 1936-40 and 1946-50, annual 1951-58

Year	Net import	Production <u>1/</u>	Apparent consumption	
			Total	Per capita <u>2/</u>
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>
Average:				
1936-40.....	139,021	0	139,021	59.5
1946-50.....	26,524	456	26,980	9.7
1951.....	944	1,800	2,744	0.9
1952.....	62,188	5,400	67,588	22.0
1953.....	1,936	9,720	11,656	3.7
1954.....	50,164	12,000	62,164	19.4
1955.....	64,798	16,080	80,878	<u>3/</u> 24.5
1956.....	69,322	18,000	87,322	<u>3/</u> 25.9
1957 <u>4/</u> .....	68,424	19,800	88,224	<u>5/</u> 25.8
1958 <u>4/</u> .....	82,136	18,000	100,136	<u>5/</u> 28.8

1/ Includes production in Swaziland. 2/ On the basis of estimated European and Asiatic population of the Union. 3/ On the basis of estimated European and Asiatic population of the Union and of South West Africa. 4/ April-March year. 5/ F.A.S. estimate.

Source: Union of South Africa, Department of Commerce and Industry Publications, and other information.

# CANADIAN COTTON CONSUMPTION CONTINUES UPTREND

Canadian cotton consumption during March 1959 was 34,000 bales (500 pounds gross). This was an increase of 6 percent from February consumption of 32,000 bales, and was 26 percent above the 27,000 bales used in March 1958.

Consumption during August-March 1958-59 totaled 248,000 bales, up 3 percent from the 240,000 bales used in the corresponding period last season.

## EGYPT EXPECTS LARGEST COTTON CROP IN 21 YEARS

Egypt's 1958-59 cotton crop is expected to be the largest since 1937-38. The fourth and final official estimate, released on April 15, 1959, places it at 2,048,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight.

This estimate is slightly higher than each of the 3 preceding 1958-59 estimates and is 10 percent above the 1957-58 crop of 1,861,000 bales. It exceeds average production in the past 10 crop years, 1948-57, by 24 percent

Practically all of the increase this year is in the extra-long staple crop, principally Menoufi. Production of medium-long staple Giza cotton and long staple Ashmouni is expected to decline from last season.

COTTON: Egypt, production by staple length and variety, 1957-58, and final official estimate, 1958-59

Staple length and principal varieties	1957-58	1958-59	Percent change
	1,000 bales 1/	1,000 bales 1/	
Extra-long staple, over 1-3/8":			
Karnak, Menoufi, and Giza 45....	844	1,200	+42
Medium-long staple, over 1-1/4":			
Giza 30,31, and 47.....	236	160	-32
Long staple, over 1-1/8":			
Ashmouni.....	741	640	-14
Subtotal.....	1,821	2,000	+10
Scarto (unclassified cotton).....	40	48	+20
Total.....	1,861	2,048	+10

1/ Bales of 500 pounds gross.

Source: Government of Egypt

EXPANSION CONTINUES IN  
COLOMBIAN COTTON INDUSTRY

Colombia's 1958-59 cotton crop, most of which has been harvested, is estimated at a record high of 155,000 bales (500 pounds gross). This is an increase of 48 percent from the 1957-58 crop of 105,000 bales, and exceeds average production in the years 1953-57 by 46 percent.

The record crop this season is attributed to a 30-percent increase in the area planted to cotton--from 164,000 acres in 1957-58 to 214,000 this year, and record yields per acre. The sizable increase in acreage reflects continuing efforts of the government and the Cotton Institute to expand and improve cotton production in Colombia.

As an incentive to increase cotton production, government prices to producers have been raised steadily since 1954-55 for most grades and qualities. Prices for the 1958-59 crop were increased by about 18 percent over 1957-58 prices. In addition, the Cotton Institute carries on an extension program to encourage farmers to use fertilizer and insecticides. Up to now very few farmers have used fertilizer, since fairly good yields could be obtained in most areas without it. However, the use of insecticides has become widespread in recent years, with increasingly larger amounts applied each year. Less than 5 percent of the cotton produced in Colombia is irrigated.

The principal variety of cotton grown in Colombia is Deltapine 15, which is produced in practically all departments. Other varieties include Coker Wilds, Coker 100 Wilt, Coker 124, Earlistaple, Sealand 542, and Miraflores. The 23 gins owned by the Cotton Institute handle all Colombian cotton.

Cotton consumption is also expected to set a new record in the current season. During the first 5 months (August-December) 78,000 bales were used, an increase of 7 percent from 73,000 bales consumed in the same months of 1957-58.

The 32 cotton mills in Colombia, with a reported total of 420,000 spindles and 8,000 looms, are now operating at full capacity, turning out over 1,000,000 yards of cloth daily. The capacity of the local textile industry is expected to be expanded about 15 percent in 1959-60 as the result of recent government approval for the importation of textile machinery.

Cotton imports into Colombia during August-October of the current season were only 4,000 bales, compared with 25,000 in the same months a year earlier. The United States has been the main supplier of Colombia's imports in recent years, with the remainder coming from Peru and Egypt.

Cotton stocks on January 1, 1959, were reported at 29,000 bales, compared with beginning stocks on August 1 of 23,000 bales.



## SWITZERLAND IMPORTS AND USES LESS COTTON

Cotton imports into Switzerland during the first half (August-January) of the current season were 88,000 bales (500 pounds gross). This was a decline of 33 percent from imports of 131,000 bales in the corresponding period a year earlier.

The U. S. share of the Swiss market declined substantially during the period under review, reflecting the shift to lower-priced cotton from some other countries. Imports from the United States were only 11,000 bales (12 percent of total imports), in contrast to 52,000 bales (40 percent of the total) in the first half of 1957-58. Imports from Egypt were also lower than a year earlier, while quantities received from other principal suppliers increased.

Quantities imported from principal sources in August-January 1958-59, with comparable 1957-58 figures in parentheses, were: Peru 31,000 bales (27,000); Mexico 28,000 (24,000); United States 11,000 (52,000); Egypt 7,000 (18,000); Nicaragua 3,000 (423); Paraguay 3,000 (322).

Swiss consumption of cotton during the first half of this season, at 80,000 bales, was 19 percent below the high level of 99,000 bales used in the first half of 1957-58. U. S. cotton accounted for 35 percent of the August-January consumption, compared with 47 percent a year earlier.

Cotton stocks on January 31, 1959, were reported at 130,000 bales, compared with 154,000 on January 31, 1958.

## COTTON PRODUCTION AT NEW HIGH IN BRITISH EAST AFRICA

The 1958-59 cotton crop in British East Africa (Uganda, Tanganyika, and Kenya) is now estimated at a record 499,000 bales (500 pounds gross). This is an increase of 13 percent from the 1957-58 crop of 442,000 bales, and 23 percent above average production of 406,000 bales in the past 5 seasons, 1953-57.

Practically all of the increase this season was in Uganda, where acreage increased 25 percent--from 1,617,000 acres in 1957-58 to 2,014,000 acres in 1958-59. Despite unfavorable weather in some parts of Uganda, production reached a record high of 342,000 bales, an increase of 17 percent from last year's crop of 292,000 bales.

Production in Tanganyika is estimated at 143,000 bales from an area of 400,000 acres, up slightly from the 1957-58 crop of 140,000 bales from 325,000 acres. Kenya's 1958-59 crop is expected to reach 14,000 bales, compared with 10,000 in 1957-58. The 100,000 acres planted to cotton in Kenya this season was the same as last year.



Only about 2,000 bales of British East Africa's annual cotton crop is used domestically. The rest is exported. Statistics for the first 2 months (August-September) of the current season show exports of 65,000 bales--a decline of 19 percent from the 80,000 bales exported in the same period a year earlier.

However, exports began to pick up considerably in October as a result of a sharp decline in prices for East African growths. Statistics for some major importing countries, including Japan and West Germany, show substantial increases in their imports of East African cotton during the first half of this season compared with the corresponding 1957-58 period.

#### INDIA HAS RECORD PEANUT CROP

India's 1958-59 peanut crop was a record 5,393,920 short tons from 14,481,000 acres, according to the final official estimates. This is a 9-percent increase in production but a 3-percent decrease in acreage from the revised estimates for 1957-58--4,968,320 tons from 14,876,000 acres.

The 1958-59 average yield per acre of 745 pounds was 12 percent larger than the previous season's yield.

#### BURMA'S EDIBLE OIL IMPORT REQUIREMENTS HIGH IN 1959

Burmese imports of edible oil in 1959 are forecast at 14,000 short tons, about the same as in 1958. Despite a 10-percent increase in domestic production, imports are expected to remain large because relatively low prices are encouraging consumption.

Imports of edible oils in 1958 totaled 13,280 short tons--7,700 tons of peanut oil and 6,280 tons of coconut oil. The peanut oil was imported from Communist China and India. Malaya supplied most of the coconut oil. Apparently dissatisfied with the quality of the Chinese peanut oil and increasing prices, importers began to buy Indian oil soon after India released this commodity for export in June 1958.

Peanut oil and sesame seed oils are the chief vegetable oils produced in Burma, and peanut oil normally accounts for more than two-thirds of the edible oil output. Production in 1958-59 is estimated at 63,000 short tons--45,000 tons of peanut oil and 18,000 tons of sesame seed oil, against 41,000 tons and 16,000 tons, respectively, in 1957-58.

A Public Law 480 agreement for about 5,500 tons of U.S. soybean oil has been negotiated with Burma. Soybean oil has not been used there previously, but if recent trial shipments are well received, the United States may supply about one-third of Burma's imported oils this year.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S EXPORTABLE  
SUPPLY OF PEANUTS LARGE IN 1959-60

Supplies of South African peanuts available for export during the 1959-60 marketing year (beginning July 1) are expected to total 64,000 short tons. This is more than twice the estimated exports of 1958-59 and one-third larger than the quantity shipped in 1957-58.

A recovery in peanut production to near-the-1956 level and a sizable increase in this year's sunflower seed outturn will allow peanut exports to rise sharply. Sunflower seed and sunflower seed oil are usually used locally, if available, while peanuts are exported.

PEANUTS (SHELLED): Union of South Africa, supply and distribution,  
1957-59, marketing years beginning July 1

Item	1957-58 <u>1/</u>	1958-59 <u>2/</u>	1959-60 <u>3/</u>
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Supply:			
Opening stocks, July 1.....	3,730	8,268	-----
Production <u>4/</u> .....	126,271	97,600	145,000
Total supply.....	130,001	105,868	145,000
Distribution:			
Exports:			
Edible.....	23,520	21,000	20,000
Crushing.....	<u>5/</u> 17,778	7,000	44,000
Total.....	41,298	28,000	64,000
Consumption.....	80,435	77,868	81,000
Ending stocks, June 30.....	8,268	-----	-----
Total distribution.....	130,001	105,868	145,000

1/ Revised. 2/ Estimated. 3/ Forecast. 4/ Production from the previous year's crop, generally harvested prior to July 1 of the first year given.  
5/ Includes 6,222 tons exported as oil.

Production of sunflower seed in 1959 is estimated at 100,000 tons, one-fourth above last year's outturn. However, drought is threatening the crop in some areas and the outturn may be reduced somewhat.

Cottonseed, soybeans, and castor beans are also grown in the Union, but on a relatively minor scale. The 1958-59 cottonseed crop is estimated at 15,000 tons, and soybean production at 1,000 tons. The castor bean crop for 1958-59 was almost a complete failure as a result of insects and diseases. Output is estimated at 4,000 tons--10,000 tons below the previous season.

## AUSTRALIA STRIVES FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN VEGETABLE FATS AND OILS

The Government of Australia is reported to be giving increasing attention to the production of oilseeds in order to reduce the need for imports of oilseeds and vegetable oils.

Flaxseed, peanuts, and olives already are being grown in substantial quantities, and production might be expanded rather easily given suitable price guarantees and improved extension services. Other crops likely to be tried are soybeans and tung nuts. Small quantities of tung nuts are now being grown commercially in New South Wales and in Queensland. Some expansion is also expected in safflower acreage. In 1957-58, 23,820 bushels were produced from 2,337 acres.

Australian consumption of the major vegetable fats and oils, particularly edible oils, continued at a high level during 1957-58. The slight downturn in economic activity, however, prevented any gain in consumption of major industrial oils.

Flaxseed production in 1957-58 declined sharply to 342,000 bushels as a result of poor growing conditions and insect infestation, although a record 96,465 acres were planted. In 1958-59 only 50,000 acres were planted but excellent yields resulted in a crop of about 520,000 bushels. Oil consumption is around the equivalent of 1.6 million bushels of seed. Deficits have been met by imports of oil, mainly from India and Argentina. Oil imports in fiscal 1957-58 and 1956-57 were 12,596 and 10,323 short tons, respectively.

Peanut growers have been encouraged somewhat by the imposition of higher tariff rates for imported peanuts and oil beginning in 1958. Production in 1957-58 was 20,525 tons (unshelled), compared with about 10,000 tons the previous year. Planted acreage in 1958-59 is estimated at 55,000 to 60,000 acres, indicating a possible harvest of 25,000 to 30,000 tons. Peanut and peanut oil imports therefore are expected to show a significant decline this year. In 1957-58 Australia imported 6,118 tons of peanuts (shelled and unshelled) and 7,961 tons of peanut oil; in 1956-57, 741 and 4,822 tons, respectively. Oil imports in the last 2 years came principally from the Union of South Africa, India, the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, and the United Kingdom. The bulk of the peanuts were from Mainland China, the Union of South Africa, Tanganyika, and New Guinea.

There has been an upward trend in imports and crushing of copra in recent years as a result of increased demand for margarine and hydrogenated coconut oil shortenings. Copra imports (40,573 tons in 1957-58 and 39,930 tons in 1956-57) came largely from the Territories of Papua and New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands.

Whale oil production in 1957-58 reached a record 18,550 tons, but adverse weather cut 1958-59 production to 17,570 tons. Consumption (for the margarine industry) in 1958-59 is expected to be at the 1957-58 level of about 2,930 tons. Exports this year are limited to the quantity in excess of local needs, or about 14,860 tons.



# AUSTRIAN VEGETABLE OIL NEEDS INCREASE IN 1959

Austria's 1959 imports of vegetable oils, fatty acids derived from vegetable oils, and the oil equivalent of imported oilseeds are forecast at 83,400 short tons, an increase of 4 percent from 1958. Most of the imports will again be crude vegetable oils; these oils are considered inedible and therefore are free from import duties.

Without the benefit of tariff protection on crude oils Austrian crushers in general feel that they cannot crush imported oilseeds and compete with nearby European crushers. The Austrian crushers' competitive position, however, may be greatly improved by a new law which gives the government authority to impose a levy of \$1.76 per 100 pounds on imported feed concentrates, including oilcake and meal. The law is intended to help control milk production. If the levy on feed concentrates becomes effective, sizable quantities of oilseeds could displace the crude vegetable oils now being imported.

Hungary may supply larger quantities of oils to Austria this year--mainly soybean oil produced from soybeans bought from Communist China. During the latter part of 1958 Austrians purchased sizable quantities of this oil at prices somewhat below those of the U. S. product.

## VEGETABLE OILS AND FATTY ACIDS: Austrian imports by kind, annual 1957 and 1958

Commodity	1957	1958 <u>1/</u>	Commodity	1957	1958 <u>1/</u>
	Short tons	Short tons		Short tons	Short tons
Edible oils:			Industrial oils:		
Soybean.....	15,304	12,993	Linseed.....	5,579	4,866
Peanut.....	5,546	10,295	Castor.....	743	656
Cottonseed.....	3,868	1,792	Tung.....	364	436
Sunflower seed..	4,330	7,265	Other <u>3/</u> .....	7,488	8,265
Rapeseed ...	884	1,800	Total....	14,174	14,223
Other <u>2/</u> .....	3,540	3,017	Fatty acids:		
Total.....	33,472	37,162	Stearic.....	578	542
Palm oils:			Oleic.....	688	594
Coconut.....	16,005	11,352	Other.....	3,512	3,317
Palm.....	4,537	5,012	Total....	4,778	4,453
Palm kernel.....	1,516	1,522	Fish oil:	830	849
Total.....	22,058	17,886	Total oil:	75,312	74,573

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes hardened edible oils of all kinds, including listed oils. 3/ Includes further processed oils from listed industrial oils.

Compiled from official sources.

Austria's imports of oilseeds generally are exceedingly small, except for copra and specialty oilseeds--pumpkin, hemp, poppy, and mustard. Oilseed imports in 1958 totaled 12,715 tons, against 7,235 tons in 1957. Copra imports accounted for 5,678 tons and 2,362 tons, respectively, in these years.

Domestic production of vegetable oils from domestically grown oilseeds varies but little each year--around 5,000 tons. Most of this is rapeseed oil, but there are small quantities of pumpkin seed oil.

Fall plantings indicate little change in rapeseed oil production in 1959, but pumpkin seed oil output may be up slightly; prices for this oil now exceed those of average grade imported olive oil. Also, Austrian nutrition experts have recommended the use of pumpkin seed oil because it is marketed with its full content of unsaturated fatty acids.

#### CUBAN WINTER VEGETABLE EXPORTS LOWER

Cuban exports of fresh tomatoes during March 1959 amounted to 3.9 million pounds, compared with 13.5 million pounds in March 1958.

Fresh cucumber exports were 3.4 million pounds, compared with 11.9 for the same month last year. The reduced volume was caused largely by lower U. S. prices and by labor problems in Cuba.

#### WEST MEXICO INCREASES EXPORTS OF CANTALOUPS AND WATERMELONS

Shipments of cantaloups from the West Coast of Mexico are expected to total about 1,000 cars this season--slightly more than last year. Peak shipments are expected to be made the week of April 27.

Watermelon exports may be 50 percent above the 2,275 cars shipped last season. Shipments will be heavy during May.

#### ISRAEL GRANTS HIGHER PREMIUM FOR CITRUS

Israel's Ministerial Economic Committee has approved an increase in the premium payable to citrus exporters this season.

The new premium is .36 Israeli pound per U. S. \$1 of added value. The former premium was .25 Israeli pound. As the official rate of exchange is 1.80 Israeli pounds to U. S. \$1, exporters will actually get 2.16 Israeli pounds to \$1.



DANES INTERESTED IN U. S.  
BROILER BREEDING STOCK

A Danish poultry cooperative, in North Jutland, has approved a resolution requesting the Ministry of Agriculture to permit imports of poultry breeding stock. If the resolution is adopted by Denmark's three other poultry-packing cooperatives, it will be submitted to the Ministry for action. The four cooperatives process about half of Denmark's modest volume of dressed poultry.

In introducing the resolution, the North Jutland cooperative expressed its interest in taking advantage of the improvements in breeding stock of other countries--especially the United States. It also proposed the establishment of quarantine stations to control introduction of infectious poultry diseases. (Present Danish quarantine regulations bar imports of poultry breeding stock.)

The Danish cooperative's initial move may further boost U. S. exports of poultry breeding stock. General European demand for U.S. stock has already strengthened considerably in recent years along with increased demand for U. S. poultry meats--fresh, frozen, and canned. U. S. poultry meat exports to Europe climbed from 425,000 pounds in 1954 to over 23 million pounds in 1958.

MOZAMBIQUE'S 1958 AGRICULTURAL  
EXPORTS INCREASE

The value of Mozambique's 6 principal agricultural exports--sugar, cotton, cashew nuts, tea, copra, and sisal--was \$55,869,000 in 1958, compared with \$50,087,000 in 1957. These items accounted for 79.1 percent of the value of all of Mozambique's exports in 1958, and 77.8 percent in 1957.

Cotton was the second most valuable export in 1958 (35,974 metric tons worth \$19,165,000). The 1957 total was 31,578 metric tons valued at \$16,652,000. Portugal continued to be the largest buyer of Mozambique's commodities, taking 45 percent. India was second with 12.5 percent. However, much of the exports to India consist of unprocessed cashew nuts, most of which are reexported to the United States after processing. Direct U. S. imports are only about 4.2 percent of Mozambique's exports.

By volume, exports of sugar and cotton for January and February 1959 were substantially higher than in the corresponding period of 1958.

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